

Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Travelers Returning from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico

Kansas Health Care Providers:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released interim guidelines for the evaluation, reporting, and testing of patients with suspected Zika virus infection. The full text of the CDC recommendations is below and at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00385.asp>.

In addition, CDC has issued interim guidelines for health care providers in the United States caring for pregnant women who have traveled to a Zika-affected area. The full text is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6502e1.htm>.

In summary, Zika virus is an emerging mosquito-borne disease in the Western Hemisphere. Outbreaks of Zika have occurred in areas of Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. Because the *Aedes* species mosquitoes that spread Zika virus are found throughout the world, it is likely that outbreaks will spread to new countries. In December 2015, Puerto Rico reported its first confirmed Zika virus case. Locally transmitted Zika has not been reported elsewhere in the United States. As of January 2016, local transmission has been noted in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Travelers to these areas are at risk for Zika virus infection.

Zika virus infection should be considered in patients with acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis, who traveled to areas with ongoing transmission in the two weeks prior to illness onset. Clinical disease usually is mild. However, during the current Western Hemisphere outbreak, Zika virus infections have been confirmed in several infants with microcephaly and in fetal losses in women infected during pregnancy. No specific antiviral treatment is available for Zika virus disease.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is available at 877-427-7317 to answer questions regarding patient testing. KDHE does not perform Zika virus testing, and testing through private laboratories is not yet available.

Laboratory-confirmed patients should be reported to KDHE at 877-427-7317.